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November 30, 2006

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Suite 713
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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DEC 1 - 2006
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***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 431X) BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in Knox and Fulton Counties, IL***

Dear Secretary Williams:

On July 17, 2006, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Services: (1) to abandon a one (1)-mile line of railroad between milepost 51.58 and milepost 52.58 near Farmington, in Fulton County, IL; and (2) to discontinue service over a 4.69-mile line of railroad between milepost 46.89 near Yates City, and milepost 51.58 near Farmington, in Knox County, IL, a total distance of 5.69 miles. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on August 4, 2006 (71 FR 44350-51). The exemption became effective on September 5, 2006.

By letter dated August 31, 2006, (officially filed with the Surface Transportation Board (“Board”) on September 18, 2006), the Farmington Rails to Trails Coalition (“Farmington Rails”) filed a Request for Public Use Condition and Request for Interim Trail Use over the one-mile line noted above proposed for abandonment. On September 11, 2006, BNSF filed its opposition to Farmington Rails’ Notice of Interim Trail Use request. (Attached).

On September 20, 2006, Keokuk Junction Railway Co. d/b/a Peoria & Western Railway Co (“KJRY”), requested that the Farmington Rails’ Interim Trail Use request be denied, claiming that a portion of the line proposed for abandonment in AB-6 (Sub. No. 431X) between Milepost 52.20 and Milepost 52.58 had already been leased to KJRY in FD 34918. KJRY also indicated an intent to file an Offer of Financial Assistance.

By letter filed on November 27, 2006, (dated October 30, 2006), KJRY has now advised the Board that KJRY has no intention of filing an Offer of Financial Assistance, so long as no Notice of Interim Trail Use is issued. KJRY emphasized that its sole interest was

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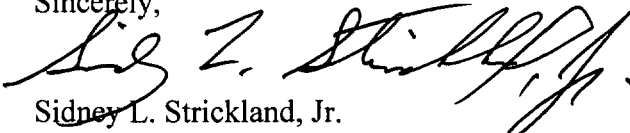
“preserving that portion of trackage leased to KJRY.” This appears to be the track referenced in the previous paragraph between Milepost 52.20 and Milepost 52.58 included in the AB-6 (Sub. No. 431X) abandonment exemption.

BNSF seeks to make it clear that BNSF will not consummate for abandonment that portion of the line between Milepost 52.20 and Milepost 52.58, as BNSF has agreed to lease that portion of the line to KJRY in the FD 34918 proceeding, and hereby excludes that portion of the line from AB-6 (Sub. No. 431X).

BNSF continues to oppose Farmington Rails request for Interim Trail Use. Because the Trails Act permits only voluntary interim trail use, the Board cannot issue an NITU in this proceeding. See Rail Abandonments – Use of Rights-of-Ways as Trails, 2 I.C.C.2d 591 (1986).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,



Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Attorney for BNSF Railway Company

Enclosure

cc: Victoria Rutson
Jake DeBoever
John Sims
Richard Batie

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September 11, 2006

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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 431X) BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in Knox and Fulton Counties, IL**

Dear Secretary Williams:

In reply to the Farmington Rails to Trails Coalition's letter to you dated August 31, 2006, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") opposes the issuance of a Notice of Interim Trails Use since BNSF needs the properties to support its ongoing rail operations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr. / ssn

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Attorney for
BNSF Railway Company

Cc: Steven C. Etcheson
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